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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**FINAL TWO DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN LARGEST
CRACK COCAINE DISTRIBUTION CONSPIRACY
EVER IN NEW ALBANY**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that M'Marcus Mason, 33, and James Larry Davis, 54, both of New Albany, Indiana, were sentenced to 11 years, 3 months (135 months) imprisonment and 10 years (120 months) respectively, today by U.S. District Judge Sarah Evans Barker, following their convictions for Conspiracy to Possess With Intent to Distribute and Distribute more than 50 grams of cocaine base (crack cocaine) following their pleas of guilty.

A total of 30 defendants were indicted in five separate, but related cases for their participation in substantial narcotics conspiracies.

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Mason and Davis were charged with fifteen other individuals, with conspiring to distribute multi-ounce quantities of cocaine base (crack cocaine) and with a total of 30 substantive drug offenses and two IRS criminal tax offenses. The criminal charges arose out of an 18-month long investigation conducted by the FBI-New Albany, the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division, the Southern Indiana Drug Task Force, Indianapolis Police Department, and DEA-Louisville into the importation of cocaine and crack cocaine into the New Albany and Jeffersonville areas from the Louisville Kentucky and surrounding areas and elsewhere. The Southern Indiana Drug Task Force is made up of law enforcement officers from the New Albany Police Department, Floyd County Sheriff's Department, Jeffersonville Police Department, Scottsburg Police Department, Clarksville Police Department, Seymour Police Department, and the Harrison County Sheriff's Department.

The evidence brought out at the guilty plea hearings and the sentencing hearings demonstrated that beginning in or about early 1999 to approximately August 16, 2001, quantities of cocaine base would be obtained from the Louisville, Kentucky area and transported to the New Albany and Jeffersonville, Indiana areas, and later be sold to individuals in the New Albany and Jeffersonville, Indiana areas, including, in and around public housing facilities and schools in the New Albany Area. Robert Scott, Alphonzo Fisher, Ronnie Davis, D'marcus Mason, James Larry Davis, Ladrell Whitehead, Sean Dedrick, Larita Evans, Shannon Kaiser, Latonia Davis, John Carothers, Weldon Davis, Ben Davis, Donnell Douglas, Armitra Smith, and Kevin Gordon, John Doe #1, a/k/a "Monty",

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distributed multiple kilograms of crack cocaine in return for the payment of United States currency during the conspiracy to other individuals in the New Albany and Jeffersonville, Indiana areas, including, in and around public housing facilities and schools in the New Albany area.. The evidence demonstrated that the leaders of this group of individuals were co-defendants Robert Scott, Alphonzo Fisher and Ronnie Davis.

During the charged conspiracy, the members utilized various means of communications to facilitate their drug trafficking enterprise, including cellular telephones, residential telephones, and digital pagers.

Once the cocaine base was in New Albany, the organization utilized different houses in the public housing area to store, “cut” and repackage it for street level distribution. When the crack cocaine was bagged up for street-level distribution, it was sold in small quantities, \$10 “rocks” or \$20 “rocks. There was approximately one-tenth of a gram of crack cocaine in a \$10 “rock” and one-fifth of a gram of crack cocaine in a \$20 “rock”. The Government’s evidence presented during the Court proceedings indicated that the organization would sell crack cocaine virtually every day during the pendency of the conspiracy. The evidence further established that the organization distributed multiple kilograms of crack cocaine over the period of the conspiracy.

Throughout the course of the investigation, law enforcement agents were able to make approximately 100 controlled purchases of crack cocaine from various members of the organization.

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The illegal activity that occurred in New Albany was conducted in an area in or near the Parkview-Brodameade Terrace, William O. Vance, and Riverview Terrace public housing facilities, as well as within 1000 feet of Herman Collier Park, Lillian Emery Elementary School, New Albany High School, and Indiana University -Southeast, New Albany Campus. The public housing facilities were neighborhoods where community residents have been faced with serious problems of illegal drug dealing and the violence it creates.

Other defendants sentenced to date in the charged conspiracy case include the following:

- Alphonzo Fisher 210 months
- Ronnie Davis 240 months
- Shannon Kaiser 121 months
- Ladrell Whitehead 60 months
- Sean Dedrick 76 months
- Larita Evans 42 months
- Ben Davis 30 months
- John Carothers 33 months
- Donnell Douglas 60 months
- Kevin Gordon 78 months
- Armitra Smith 51 months
- Latonia Davis 6 months home detention, 18 months supervised release

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Robert Scott, formerly of Bardstown, Kentucky, who was also indicted in the above indictment was identified as the source of supply of more than 25 kilograms of cocaine and cocaine base to Alphonzo Fisher during the period of the charged conspiracy. Nelson's dead body was found in a farm field in rural Nelson County, Kentucky, from an apparent suicide. Scott's sources of supply were indicted in federal court in Louisville after being arrested for the possession of 33 kilograms of cocaine in September of 2002. The four defendants, Yamil Aguirre, Peter Mecca of Pennsylvania, Steven Ceballos of New York, and Bruce Shumake of Louisville, were arrested on September 5, 2002, in Louisville by federal agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Two fugitives remain at large in this case. Two other individuals who were associated with the Fisher/Davis organization were prosecuted by separate indictments and sentenced separately. Wendell Copeland, New Albany, was sentenced to 252 months imprisonment for distribution of crack cocaine and possession of a firearm during and in relation to a federal drug trafficking crime, and Shawn Martin, Jeffersonville, was sentenced to 57 months imprisonment for distribution of crack cocaine.

U.S. Attorney Susan W. Brooks stated, "The FBI and the Southern Indiana Task Force acted proactively in this case, with the support of the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division and the Indianapolis Police Department.. They identified a problem where a specific neighborhood was being victimized by illegal drug dealing and related violence," noted Brooks, "and then developed a plan to try to stop it. They focused

significant resources on the problem and worked as a coordinated team.” The investigative plan employed a variety of law enforcement techniques, including surveillance in the area, controlled purchases of narcotics, and court authorized interception of telephone communications.

“This joint effort by federal and local law enforcement agencies to identify and address the problem of drug trafficking in a particular area demonstrates the best of proactive law enforcement,” said Brooks. “This office and the Mayor of New Albany, Regina Overton, share with all the law enforcement agencies involved in this investigation a dedication to the proposition that the law-abiding citizens in our neighborhoods should not have to tolerate criminal activity which threatens their safety and the peace of their communities.”

She noted that similar efforts will be undertaken in the future when facts are developed to warrant a focus of resources and personnel. “It’s simple. For every choice, there are consequences. For those who choose to illegally deal drugs and victimize people with violence, this is the consequence.”

According to Brooks, in a separately charged, but related case, six other defendants have been convicted to date. Sentenced defendants include:

- Terry Mozee 151 months
- Lewann Mozee 151 months
- Dion Smith 120 months
- William R. Mozee, Jr. 151 months

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- Shaun Yates 78 months
- Kevin Yates 87 months

Curtis Odell Carter, Louisville, Kentucky, who was charged in the above conspiracy remains a federal fugitive.

In another related , but separately indicted case, the following defendants have been sentenced:

- Davon Alexander 135 months
- Phillip Johnson 188 months
- Josh Conley 97 months
- Gerald Bradford 78 months

Curtis Odell Carter, Louisville, Kentucky, who was also charged in the conspiracy described above, remains a federal fugitive in that case as well.

Approximately 29 other individuals were charged in Clark County and Floyd County, Indiana, with various drug related offenses which occurred during the course of the investigation. Brooks commended the cooperative efforts of Clark County Prosecutor Steven Stewart, and Floyd County Prosecutor, Keith Henderson.

According to Assistant United States Attorney, John E. Dowd, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Barker also imposed 8 years supervised release following Davis's release from imprisonment and 5 years supervised release following Mason's release.

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